

## Summary of Community Responses to LTCCP Elements Consultation on Regional Outcomes and Priorities September/October 2002

### Themes

- There was general support and interest by the majority of respondents for sustainability and looking after the region's environment.
- Transport and water were the key concerns raised.
- There was concern by a minority that WRC wanted to be involved in areas dealt with by other agencies.
- Windpower, the purchase of Tranz Metro and recycling were specific issues that were frequently mentioned.
- Many recognised the need for education to help people understand issues and change behaviours.
- The need to remember the impact on ratepayers was also frequently raised.

### Statistics

A copy of the Elements Consultation edition was sent to every household in the Wellington Region. This equated to a total of 170,000 copies, with an additional 250 copies sent to community groups.

<b>Number of Responses</b>	
Individuals	127
Organisations	22
Total	149

<b>Method of Responses</b>	
Coupon	101
Letter	18
Email	24
Phone	4
Fax	2
Total	149

<b>Number of Responses from Constituency</b>	
Kapiti	25
Wairarapa	10
Lower Hutt	29
Upper Hutt	6
Porirua	5
Wellington	47
Address not supplied	25
Levin	2
Total	149

## **The Consultation Process**

A number of respondents thanked the WRC for the opportunity to comment. For example:

“ Thanks for letting me have my say”

“Thank you for the opportunity to tell you what I think”

“Thank you for this information and opportunity to comment.”

## **Sustainability Goals**

One third of submitters commented on sustainability, either generally or with regards to the Council’s sustainability goals. 13 explicitly commented they supported the aim of sustainability and 20 supported the sustainability goals of the WRC. Only 2 expressed concern with sustainability as an overall objective for the region and 5 expressed concern with the sustainability goals of WRC.

There was a high-level of support for the objective of a sustainable region. For example comments from submitters included:

“It’s ambitious, but essential. We endorse your vision. Go for it.”

“Great ideas – so important to plan for the future, making sure there is the environment for the next generation to enjoy.”

“I really like the way you describe your goal for the area as a Sustainable Region.”

“I wholeheartedly agree with everything”

“I agree with the ideas you have presented for a sustainable Greater Wellington Region. Thank you for the clarity of your presentation. Congratulations to all concerned.”

A minority made opposing comments. For example:

“I disagree with the principles of sustainability as stated by Council. In my opinion they contain a lot of rather nebulous ideas.”

“Sustainable development sounds like a good thing... Of course, taxpayers and ratepayers are expected to foot the bill for implementing these expensive plans. It is a loaded definition.”

## **WRC Role**

Most submitters commented on specific goals or issues the Council should address rather than what the WRC should focus on – these are noted in the summary beside each goal.

There were comments that the Council has got it right. For example:

“In my opinion the Wellington Regional Council has the right priorities and generally the right balance.”

However some were concerned that the WRC wanted to move beyond its core functions or that rates would go up. For example:

“Council should focus on doing the basics and doing them well, and in a cost effective manner.”

Sustainability Goals	Comments Summary
<b>Resources</b>	Resources should be used “sparingly” Concern about the waste of non-renewable resources, suggest managing resources through tax reform. Some resources and areas in the region should have severely restricted access e.g. prohibit vehicle access Support marine parks as fish resources are being depleted
<b>Pollution</b>	Wholly support reduction in pollution of land, water and air. (x4) Pollution should be reduced to be “undetectable” Line3, replace “limiting” with “reducing” Line 3, replace “limiting” with “minimising” Reduce sight pollution from advertising. Reduce sight pollution from advertising. Reduce rates for those who use sprayfree or organic as properties are uncontaminated with chemical fertilisers etc Buses should be fined for buses that spew out black smoke and the money collected go towards the pollution budget Lobby central government to get pollution levels down Advise people where they can dump noxious substances TV advertising against exhaust emissions doesn’t seem to have changed behaviours.
<b>Basic Needs</b>	High importance (x2) WRC should have co-ordinating role in this and it should be included in WRC’s sustainability goals The true costs associated with production, transport, safe disposal and environmental impact of basic needs should be reflected in the price paid.
<b>Local Needs</b>	Local needs, including work and shopping are not met within Wainuiomata.
<b>Satisfying Work</b>	High importance (x2) Satisfying work for over 40 age bracket is important Focus on work and income for people to generate wealth. Need stability when trying to achieve sustainability. Endless change and development does not lend itself to satisfaction. Economy and work is a central government responsibility paid for by income tax. Build a casino to provide work for people.
<b>Safety</b>	People need to know what we do and that we are doing everything possible to feel safe. This statement implies there is no responsibility on local government to reduce risk from natural hazards e.g. flooding – maintenance of river banks, earthquake - stop building in high risk areas. Safety for cyclists by making cycle lanes and slowing cars (x2). Safety is central government responsibility paid for by income tax.

<b>Sustainability Goals</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
<b>Health</b>	<p>Need quick access to Wellington Hospital, through better roading.</p> <p>A public health system which is accessible by all is essential. Hospital and health services are required in the Wairarapa. Support this initiative, perhaps walking and cycling to school for children will help reduce obesity etc.</p> <p>Health is a central government responsibility paid for by income tax.</p>
<b>Access</b>	Line 2, delete “unnecessarily”.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>High importance.</p> <p>Line 1, after “valued”, add “, restored”.</p>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p>Improve public understanding of the concept of risk and WRC understanding of risk associated with predictions of outcomes e.g. flood risk.</p> <p>Understanding the boundaries and crossovers of regional and city council responsibilities would be helpful e.g. through an article in Elements or programme of short lectures in schools.</p>
<b>Empowerment</b>	<p>Good consultative processes have not been demonstrated in the past e.g. Masterton not involved in discussions on the stadium. Planning and reaching goals requires negotiation between communities and this requires honesty, so that all communities benefit.</p> <p>The consultation process for annual plan needs to be simplified and the annual plan is difficult to understand.</p> <p>Consultation with users before carrying out projects.</p> <p>Currently decision-making is a one-sided affair, which is often to the detriment of the community. (x2)</p> <p>Ratepayers wishes are often overlooked e.g. stadium</p>
<b>Leisure</b>	<p>It is important not to forget the cultural aspects.</p> <p>Ice Rink</p> <p>Open up waterfront for recreational and family pursuits</p> <p>Dog-friendly spaces</p> <p>Support indoor sports facility at the Stadium through funding.</p> <p>Provide cycle routes in the region</p> <p>Those on low income do not always have access to open spaces. Could subsidise maintenance of sports grounds and parks in low income areas.</p> <p>Access to open space will become an issue over next few years as many open spaces are privately owned and there will be population pressures. WRC should carefully examine reserve land and assess effects of development on adjacent land.</p>
<b>Culture</b>	<p>Should include recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi – respecting and valuing views of everyone, including tangata whenua. Council listens and respects the knowledge of its residents, whether indigenous knowledge, local knowledge or science.</p>

<b>Sustainability Goals</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	<p>Support protection of the special character of different places. Where is the reference to culture and heritage as part of the WRC's goals.</p> <p>Heritage preservation is fundamental to NZs cultural identities, which are a foundation in achieving social wellbeing.</p>

<b>WRC Priorities</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Support focus on biodiversity</p> <p>Support aim of biodiversity but do not necessarily agree with the current analogies and methods.</p> <p>Return NZ to pre 19<sup>th</sup> century biodiversity.</p> <p>Commit to a GE free region (x4)</p> <p>Establish native shelter belts to encourage native bird populations.</p> <p>Continue with plant and animal pest control. 1080 - Have noticed a vast increase in native birds in Akatarawa forest since decline of possum numbers.</p> <p>Get rid of possums without using 1080.</p> <p>More emphasis on the eradication of noxious weed and pest control</p> <p>Active pest control and information to public so they can do this too.</p> <p>Weed control and eradication along sides of motorways.</p> <p>Get rid of gorse.</p> <p>Ban the growing of privet.</p> <p>Work together with nature Heritage Fund.</p> <p>Work to bring back native forests to increase species diversity.</p> <p>Plant more natives along the edge of motorways and in the city.</p> <p>Diverse not just indigenous plantings.</p> <p>Continue native plantings work along waterways.</p> <p>Ensure the current Key Native Ecosystem KNE at East Harbour Regional Park be given recognition in the 10 year plan and would like to see more KNEs in the region and continue support of these through ongoing pest animal and plant control programmes.</p> <p>Identifying ecologically valuable land etc and protecting it e.g. Glenside suburb</p> <p>Permaculture design would benefit the region</p>

<b>WRC Priorities</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
<b>Water</b>	<p>Achieve and maintain a high level of water quality (x9)            Place emphasis on link between biodiversity and clean water.            Ensure enough water for future region growth (x6)            Prevent wastage of water to reduce pressure on existing and new water reserves            Clean up our rivers and streams (x3)            Clean up our coastal waters.            Increase water quality of Wellington harbour and coasts for swimming (x 2) and food gathering.            Take water complaints seriously            WRC should own/control these utilities, do not privatise (x5)            Avoid reduction in water quality by artificial means e.g. irrigation            UV light used to purify grey water            Keep fluoride out of our drinking water            Need to include goals that focus on protection of coastal marine, estuarine and wetland habitat</p>
<b>Air</b>	<p>Bring in compulsory vehicle emission testing            Ban smoky vehicles</p>
<b>Energy</b>	<p>Important to focus on efficient energy use. (x2)            Establish wind farms (x5)            Solar power in homes (x2)            Reduce rates for those who use solar power in homes.            Cheap and adequate power for the prosperity of the region.            Establish small hydro-electric schemes in Otaki, Tauherenikau, Waiohine etc gorges.            Use local landfills to produce some power.            Cars that run on batteries            How does Transmission Gully and other road building fit into efficient energy use aim?</p>
<b>Land</b>	<p>Follow land use patterns in continental Europe and Scandinavia.            Control new sub-developments and their environmental impact            WRC take lead in ensuring sustainable farming through RMA to control erosion. This has effects on water quality and biodiversity.            Create large pedestrian zones with trees and gardens and safe cycle paths in the township centre, reduce car use not build more carparks.            Resurrect Landscape Plan which recognised value of such areas as the skyline and bush covered or open country hillsides providing a backdrop to the harbour setting.</p>
<b>Access/Transport</b>	<p>Support WRC focusing on good accessibility and minimal road congestion. (x3)            Wellington needs a forward plan to allow prosperity especially for growth between Tawa and Porirua and on the coast.            Use incentives and disincentives to change people's behaviour to opt for envi friendly alternatives. E.g. bicycle lanes, cheaper public transport, introduce road tolls (x2).            Better accessibility for travellers and locals through a cohesive transport plan, including efficient rail transport            Good transport links.</p>

WRC Priorities	Comments Summary
	<p><i>Access</i> Need another route in case of earthquake. Getting from major areas of the region to the airport is a problem.</p> <p><i>Roading</i> Concern with push for new roads through wild areas. Don't privatise our roading systems. Finish motorway as originally planned and keep through-traffic off local streets. Consider how cyclists will use roads etc e.g. Haywards junction. Build another tunnel through Mt Victoria. Motorway extended to Kapiti like Auckland Bus and car traffic is being impeded by concrete profusions in Wellington and carparking is being reduced. Safety, access and flexibility important for transport e.g. footpaths. Four way highway from Wellington to Levin Re-route the main trunk railway line through Transmission Gully and utilise the coastal rail section to carry two southbound lanes of SH1.</p> <p><i>Transmission Gully</i> Support for building Transmission Gully (x3) Do not support transmission gully. Stall all progress on Transmission Gully until effect of new bridge at Paremata is seen. How does Transmission Gully fit in the context of reducing pollution and meeting local needs initiatives?</p> <p><i>Passenger transport</i> Support public transport initiatives (x5) Support publicly owned transport system i.e. rail. (x4) Mass transit lanes for public transport. Building more roads e.g. inner city bypass and transmission gully will not achieve sustainability, instead improve public transport (x3) Focus on public transport not roads as depleting petrol supplies. Make public transport cheaper Improve public transport to reduce amount of traffic in city by 10% which according to radio report is all that is needed to eliminate traffic congestion in the city. Prioritise public transport across the region, not just in metropolitan areas. Better rail and bus services for those in Wairarapa without transport. Support harbour ferries as these reduce traffic. Discourage use of private vehicles. Bring back carless days. Public transport is slow and inadequate Reduce emphasis on public transport.</p>

<b>WRC Priorities</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
	<p><i>Rail transport</i>            Extend rail system to get to airport etc.            Train system to continue into Wellington's CBD.            Supports upgrade of rail services            Support efficient trainline not Transmission Gully            Train service continued and modernised.            Reduced train fares.            Tranz Metro service is hopeless.            Need to have adequate car parking at train stations e.g. Paraparaumu.            Please ensure enough trains for commuters so people don't have to stand the entire trip.            Suggest system based on light rail along main corridors, buses are too slow even with bus lanes.            Massive expenditure on railways improvement should not fall on the ratepayers.            Supports WRC owning Tranz Rail            Central government ownership of Tranzrail (x3)            Tranz Rail not for WRC to buy or run. (x3)</p> <p><i>Buses</i>            Bus lanes e.g. Ngauranga gorge to reduce congestion.            Bus only routes during peak hours in Wellington's CBD to reduce delays.            Bus systems could be improved.</p> <p><i>Parking</i>            Free Parking or throughout region.</p>
<b>Waste minimisation</b>	<p>Minimising waste is a key focus.            Focus on waste removal.            Good management is critical to reduce areas put aside for landfills and reduce costs of collecting solid waste.            Recycling a wide range of waste must be given more priority (x 7) e.g. through disincentives and incentive schemes, encourage businesses such as restaurants and bars to recycle all glass.            Recycling bins in public places instead of rubbish bins.            WRC should own/control sewerage facilities.            Increase education of waste management issues and solutions.            Manage disposal of batteries as contamination power is immense.            Too much rubbish in the harbour and on beaches.            Bio-processing and treatment should be central to waste minimisation policy.            Sewerage is more important than building transmission gully road.</p>



<b>WRC Priorities</b>	<b>Comments Summary</b>
<b>Recreation and Parks</b>	<p>Parks and recreation are important for population health.  Pest free parks like Karori Sanctuary i.e. at QE II  Help fund Otari-Wilton Bush Trust and establish plant nursery to serve outer green belt and Otari-Wilton Bush as these area are of national and regional significance.  Bring trees into the city.  Continue with native tree planting (x2)  Doggy bins in parks.  Continue with native tree planting.  Easier access to recreation for elderly e.g. buses to Pencarrow.  Regional parks are a valuable recreational asset.  Wainuimata treatment plant opened up to more freely for recreation.  More mountain biking areas.  Promote Wellington as an outdoor recreation paradise  Give prominent recognition to the sport of hunting as a cultural, leisure and recreational issue.  Important to have easy access to land, marine and historical recreational facilities  Maintain access to rivers for recreational use  Stadium – whatever happened to user pays.</p>
<b>Safety/Hazards</b>	<p>Focus on safety is important.  Plan with a view to recovering quickly and use space and resources to accommodate major earthquake event in addition to normal CD plans.  Good flood control systems are essential  Are stop banks on Hutt River high enough or is dredging required? Need to flood proof the Hutt Valley  Protection from farmers who spray regularly and use chemical fertilizers as this affect others drinking water  Hazardous substance and waste clean-up was great way to support ratepayers  Bring back the death penalty</p>
<b>Community</b>	<p>Active community taking responsibility for our region should be a high priority.  WRC lead by example – take responsibility for the region by driving less to work etc.  Support triple bottom line accounting, businesses for social responsibility (x2)  Un-waged people could participate in organised voluntary community projects.  Support educating people about issues and solutions and encourage them to actively move towards sustainability by setting up an environmental resource centre.  Create opportunities for children and young people to experience and be involved in caring for/contributing to natural resources.  Education Centre at Nga Manu Nature Reserve to help deliver environmental messages and promote awareness  Educate people on ecology/sustainability etc</p>

## Issues Relating to a Specific City or District in the Region

### *Kapiti*

- Concerned that issues regarding waste removal and water supply in the Kapiti District have not been solved.
- Believes the water supply in Kapiti over the summer months needs to be improved.
- Would favour wind farms or small hydroelectric schemes in the Otaki, Tauherinikau, Waiohine gorges.
- Believes a sustainable greater Wellington would mean suitable park and ride facilities for Paraparaumu and Waikanae, suitable bus systems for the Kapiti Coast, active management of biodiversity on the Kapiti Coast and a more integrated hut and track system in the Akatarawa Forest Park.
- Concerned about the lack of car parking at Paraparaumu rail station.
- Concern that local Councillors do not achieve anything for the Kapiti district.
- Questions why ratepayers in the old Otaki Borough Council area have to pay WRC rates for certain transport which is completely non-existent.
- Believes public transport in Waikanae is unreliable. Also believes it would be helpful to have an information centre at the railway station.

### *Wairarapa*

- Believes the Tranz Rail timetable from Wellington to Wairarapa is inadequate.
- Concerned about the controversy over who will pay for the proposed new Waiohine Bridge north of Greytown.
- Suggests that the road into Mt. Holdsworth Lodge needs sealing.
- Believes the rail/bus services within the Wairarapa district could be improved.
- Concerned about the Ruamahanga River in the Wairarapa Valley. The river is polluted; would like to see this matter investigated and some action taken.
- Would like the Wairarapa wild coastline protected from development.
- Concerned about the regressive capital value rating system, which conflicts with the recent change by South Wairarapa to a total non-differential land value system.

### *Lower Hutt*

- Would like free parking in Lower Hutt and train fares to Wellington reduced.
- Believes local needs, including work and shopping are not met within Wainuiomata.
- Questions the viability of WRCs purchase of farmland in Eastbourne.
- Would like a tree lined Petone esplanade and would like more trees planted in the city.
- Believes WRC could suggest a site to aid the creation of an ice rink in Porirua or Lower Hutt.
- Concerned about the push for new roads through wild areas such as Korokoro stream.
- Believes the WRC should ban the growing of Privet; refers to Wainuiomata and Stokes Valley being the worst affected areas.
- Believes the bus stop outside 1114 High Street Lower Hutt needs some attention as it floods when it rains.
- Would like more mountain biking areas in the Hutt area.
- Concerned about the suitability of the bridges over the Hutt River.
- Would like to see more enforcement of bus brake maintenance; the screeching is audible all over the area – Hutt, Petone and Wellington.

### *Upper Hutt*

- Believes vehicle access should be restricted around areas in the South Coast around Pencarrow and the bush around the Rimutakas and Tararuas.

### *Porirua*

- Believes more work has to be created in places like Porirua, Kapiti and Masterton before they can become self-sustaining or self-sufficient.
- Suggestions for the protection and enhancement of Porirua Stream; refers particularly to the section of the stream at Glenside.

### *Wellington*

- Believes that a more affordable option regarding the No.53 bus service to Johnsonville should be explored.
- Suggests that a Wellington motor camp should be established; believes Shelly Bay would be ideal.
- Suggests dressing sheds, showers and toilets are installed at Oriental Bay and Point Howard.
- Proposes that Shelly Bay wharves be restored and made safe and available for recreational fishers.
- Concerned about Karori Stream; it should be cleared of noxious weeds and rubbish. Suggests rubbish bins at bus stops be removed because people light fires in them.
- Questions what the WRC has done for Newlands.
- Suggests that a casino be established to provide work for approximately 2,000 people.
- Concerned about traffic congestion through Johnsonville, through surrounding areas and onward to and through Ngauranga Gorge.
- Believes the special character and the significant landform Quartz Hill should not be spoiled by the construction of wind power stations.
- Suggests that parks and sports grounds be subsidised to make these spaces accessible for low income earners with teenage children.
- Opposes the proposal of the family fishing shore line around Island Bay being made into a reserve. Believes that the reserve should be made elsewhere such as Fitzroy Bay or Red Rocks where the average family with a car cannot reach.

### Issues Raised at Meetings With Community Groups

Group	Date / Time	Issues Raised
Pukerua Bay Residents Assoc	Tuesday 1 October 8pm	Transport, Coast
Koro Koro Protection Group.		Transport, Regional Parks
Combined Residents Associations of Pukerua Bay, Plimmerton, Puatahanui	Monday 7 October, 7.30pm	High level goals, interaction between councils, clarity of language
Friends of Tawa Bush Reserve	Wednesday 2 October 7.30	Natural areas, pest control, interaction between councils
Newland Paparangi Residents Association	Tuesday 1 October 7.30	Bus services, road proposals